Gluon saturation and inclusive production at low transverse momenta

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In this letter we suggest the generalization of k_T -factorization formula for inclusive gluon production for the dense-dense parton system scattering. It turnes out that the soft gluon production with transverse momentum p_T is suppressed by additional Sudakov-like factor that depends on p_T^2/Q_s^2 ratio in a good agreement with the first numerical calculation in Colour Glass Condensate approach by J. P. Blaizot, T. Lappi and Y. Mehtar-Tan.

It is well known that our approach to inclusive production of an gluon jet is based on k_T factorization[1–4] which leads to

$$\frac{d\sigma}{dy \, d^2 p_T} = \frac{2\pi \bar{\alpha}_s}{p_\perp^2} \int d^2 k_T \, \phi_G^{h_1} \left(x_1; \vec{k}_T \right) \, \phi_G^{h_2} \left(x_2; \vec{p}_T - \vec{k}_T \right) \tag{1}$$

where $\phi_G^{h_i}$ are the probability to find a gluon that carries x_i fraction of energy with k_{\perp} transverse momentum and $\bar{\alpha}_s = \alpha_s N_c / \pi$ with the number of colours equals N_c .

In the framework of high density QCD[5–13] the k_T -factorization has been proven [14] (see also Refs. [15, 17–20]) for the scattering of the diluted system of partons, say for virtual photon, with the dense one. Such scattering is characterized by two scale of hardness: the saturation momentum of the dense system Q_s and the p_T of the produced gluon. The dense-dense parton system scattering has three scales of hardness: two saturation momenta and p_T ; and the k_T -factorization has not been proven for this process. The most dangerous region is for p_T smaller than both saturation momenta ($p_t < Q_{1,s} \le Q_{2s}$) where we did not expect that k_T factorization will work. However, for $Q_{1,s} < p_T < Q_{2s}$ we are dealing with scattering with two scales of hardness and we can expect that k_T factorization is valid here. In this paper we address this problem and suggests the generalization of the k_T factorization (see below Eq. (2)) for $p_t < Q_{1,s} \le Q_{2s}$.

As it was shown in Ref.[14] $\phi_G^{h_i}\left(x_1; \vec{k}_\perp\right)$ can be written through dipole scattering amplitude $N\left(x_i, r_\perp; b\right)$, where r_\perp is the dipole size and b is the impact parameter of the scattering. This relation reads as follows

$$\phi_G^{h_i}\left(x_i; \vec{k}_T\right) = \frac{1}{\bar{\alpha}_s 4\pi} \int d^2b \, d^2r_{\perp} e^{i\vec{k}_T \cdot \vec{r}_{\perp}} \, \nabla_{\perp}^2 \, N_G^{h_i} \left(y_i = \ln(1/x_i); r_{\perp}; b\right) \tag{2}$$

where

$$N_G^{h_i}(y_i = \ln(1/x_i); r_{\perp}; b) = 2N(y_i = \ln(1/x_i); r_{\perp}; b) - N^2(y_i = \ln(1/x_i); r_{\perp}; b)$$
(3)

 $N\left(y_i = \ln(1/x_i); r_\perp; b\right)$ is the dipole -hadron (h_i) scattering amplitude which satisfy the Balitsky-Kovchegov equation. Using that $N\left(x_i, r_\perp; b\right)$ is a function of r_\perp^2 we can rewrite Eq. (2) in the form

$$\phi_{G}^{h_{i}}\left(x_{i};\vec{k}_{T}\right) = \frac{1}{\bar{\alpha}_{s} 4\pi} \int d^{2}b \, d^{2}r_{\perp} e^{i\vec{k}_{T}\cdot\vec{r}_{\perp}} \frac{1}{r_{\perp}} \frac{\partial}{\partial r_{\perp}} r_{\perp} \frac{\partial}{\partial r_{\perp}} N_{G}^{h_{i}}\left(y_{i} = \ln(1/x_{i}); r_{\perp}; b\right);$$

$$= \frac{1}{\bar{\alpha}_{s} 4\pi} \int d^{2}b \left\{ 2\pi \left(e^{i\vec{k}_{T}\cdot\vec{r}_{\perp}} r_{\perp} \frac{\partial}{\partial r_{\perp}} N_{G}^{h_{i}}\left(y_{i} = \ln(1/x_{i}); r_{\perp}; b\right) \right\} \Big|_{r_{\perp}=0}^{r_{\perp}=\infty}$$

$$- ik_{T} \int dr_{\perp} d\phi \cos\phi e^{ik_{T}r_{\perp}} \cos\phi r_{\perp} \frac{\partial}{\partial r_{\perp}} N_{G}^{h_{i}}\left(y_{i} = \ln(1/x_{i}); r_{\perp}; b\right) \right\};$$

$$(5)$$

At $r_{\perp} \to 0$ the amplitude N_G approaches the solution of the DGLAP equation which in our case corresponds the double log limit of the BFKL equation. Therefore

$$\int d^2b \, r_{\perp} \frac{\partial}{\partial r_{\perp}} N_G^{h_i} \left(y_i = \ln(1/x_i); r_{\perp}; b \right) \to \text{DLA}$$

$$\propto r_{\perp} \frac{\partial}{\partial r_{\perp}} \exp \left(\sqrt{4\bar{\alpha}_s \ln(1/x) \ln(1/(r_{\perp}^2 \lambda_{QCD}^2)} - \ln(1/(r_{\perp}^2 \lambda_{QCD}^2)) \right) \xrightarrow{r_{\perp} \to 0} 0$$
(6)

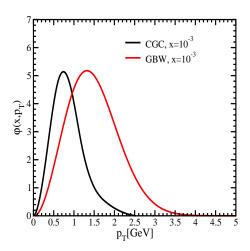


FIG. 1: Function ϕ_G versus transverse momentum in different saturation models: GBW denotes the Golec-Biernat and Wusthoff model (see Ref.[22]) while CGC denotes the model suggested in Ref.[23]. These two model have different values of the saturation momentum and the picture illustrates that $\phi(x, p_T)$ has maximum at $p_T = Q_s$.

It is worth to mention that the impact parameter dependence enters in Eq. (6) as a factor and cannot change our claim that this term vanishes at $r_{\perp} \to 0$.

At large $r_{\perp} 1 - N_G \propto \exp\left(-C \ln^2\left(r^2 Q_s^2\right)\right)$ (see Ref.[21]) and, therefore,

$$\int d^2b \, r_{\perp} \frac{\partial}{\partial r_{\perp}} N_G^{h_i} \left(y_i = \ln(1/x_i); r_{\perp}; b \right) \xrightarrow{r_{\perp} \to \infty} 0 \tag{7}$$

Finally we see that the first term in Eq. (5) vanishes and we have

$$\phi_G^{h_i}\left(x_i; \vec{k}_T\right) = k_T \int dr_\perp J_1\left(k_T r_\perp\right) \ r_\perp \frac{\partial}{\partial r_\perp} N_G^{h_i}\left(y_i = \ln(1/x_i); r_\perp; b\right) \tag{8}$$

From Eq. (8) one can see that at $k_T \to 0$ $\phi_G \propto k_T^2$ while at large values of $k_T \phi_G \propto 1/k_T^2 \to 0$. Such behaviour of ϕ_G means that it has maximum at $k_T \approx Q_s$. The numerical calculations[33](see Fig. 1) confirm this claim.

Having this feature of ϕ_G in mind we see that at $p_T \ll Q_s$ Eq. (1) gives

$$\frac{d\sigma}{dy \, d^2 p_T} = \frac{2\pi \bar{\alpha}_s}{p_{\perp}^2} \int d^2 k_T \, \phi_G^{h_1} \left(x_1; \vec{k}_T \right) \, \phi_G^{h_2} \left(x_2; \, \vec{k}_T \right) \tag{9}$$

One can see that at $p_T \to 0$ the cross section tends to infinity. Since we are talking about inclusive cross section generally speaking such situation is possible and it corresponds to increasing multiplicity of soft gluons. However, in framework of gluon saturation it looks strange. As we have discussed above, the main contribution to ϕ_G give the gluons with transverse momenta of about Q_s while the gluons with small values of k_T are suppressed. In other words, the correlation length between emitted gluon is of the order of $1/Q_s$ and we expect that emission of gluons with the wave length larger that $1/Q_s$ should be suppressed. Of course, soft gluons with $p_T \ll Q_s$ could be emitted in the final state but they will not propagate through the medium since the cross section is large $(\sigma T(b) \propto Q_s^2/p_T^2 \gg 1)$.

In this letter we will show that simple formula of Eq. (1) should be changed and a new double log suppression factor (T) should be added. Therefore, the inclusive cross section has a form (see Fig. 2-a)

$$\frac{d\sigma}{dy\,d^2p_T} = \frac{2\pi\bar{\alpha}_s}{p_\perp^2} \int d^2q_1\,d^2q_2\,\delta\left(\vec{q}_1 - \vec{q}_2 - \vec{p}_T\right) \,\phi_G^{h_1}\left(x_1; \vec{q}_1\right) \,\phi_G^{h_2}\left(x_2; \vec{q}_2\right) \,T\left(\frac{p_T^2}{Q_s^2}\right) \tag{10}$$

In Eq. (10) we assume that $Q_{s,1} \approx Q_{s,2}$. The appearance of T in inclusive production was found in 1980's [24–26] and it is related to the fact that the emission of some gluons is suppressed in the process. In our case the emission of gluons is suppressed with the value of the transverse momenta ($p_{T,i}$) in the region: $p_T \leq p_{T,i} \leq Q_s$ (see Fig. 2-b, where the gluons which emission is suppressed, are denoted by the dashed lines). Actually, the emission of gluons with small values of $p_{T,i}$ has been taken into account in functions $\phi_G^{h_i}$ but they result in suppression of the emission for such gluons and we do not need to account separately for them.

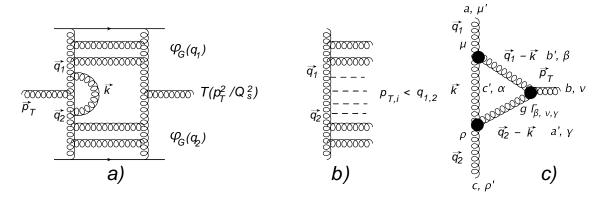


FIG. 2: Inclusive cross section: $\vec{q}_1 - \vec{q}_2 = \vec{p}_T$.

Eq. (10) says that the emission of the gluon with $p_T \leq Q_s$ is suppressed and only gluons with $p_t > Q_s$ gives the contribution to the inclusive production. For such gluons the k_T factorization works. This qualitative features of Eq. (10) has been confirmed by the first numerical calculculation that found the deviation from k_T factorization (see Ref.[28]). These calculation shows that for $p_T < Q_s$ the gluon production is suppressed while for $p_T > Q_s$ the k_T factorization works perfectly well.

We calculate the first diagrams of Fig. 2-c to illustrate the double log contribution.

This diagram is equal to

$$A(Fig. 2-c) = \frac{g^{3}}{(2\pi)^{4} i} \left(f_{a,b',c'} f_{c',b,a} f_{a',c,c'} = -\frac{N_{c}}{2} f_{abc} \right) \int \frac{dk^{+} dk^{-} d^{2}k_{T}}{2 q_{1}^{+} \cdot q_{2}^{-}}$$

$$\frac{q_{1,\mu}^{+} \Gamma_{\mu,\alpha,\beta} \Gamma_{\beta,\gamma,\nu} \Gamma_{\gamma,\alpha,\rho} q_{2,\rho}^{-}}{(k^{+}k^{-} - k_{T}^{2} - i\epsilon) \left((q_{1}^{+} - k^{+})(q_{1}^{-} - k^{-}) - (\vec{q}_{1} - \vec{k})_{T}^{2} - i\epsilon \right) \left((q_{2}^{+} - k^{+})(q_{2}^{-} - k^{-}) - (\vec{q}_{2} - \vec{k})_{T}^{2} - i\epsilon \right)}$$

$$(11)$$

In Eq. (11) we used that at high energies the propagators of gluons with momenta q_1 and q_2 can be written in the form [5, 27]

$$D_{\mu',\mu}(q_1) = \frac{q_{2,\mu'}^- q_{1,\mu}^+}{q_2^- q_1^+} \frac{1}{q_{1,T}^2}; \quad D_{\rho,\rho'}(q_2) = \frac{q_{2,\rho}^- q_{1,\rho'}^+}{q_2^- q_1^+} \frac{1}{q_{2,T}^2}; \tag{12}$$

In leading log(1/x) approximation we have the following kinematic constraints:

$$q_1^+ \gg q_2^+; \quad q_2^- \gg q_1^-; \quad q_1^+ q_2^- = p_T^2; \quad q_1^+ q_1^- \ll q_{1,T}^2; \quad q_2^+ q_2^- \ll q_{2,T}^2;$$
 (13)

Integration for $k_T > Q_s$ leads to renormalization of the coupling QCD constant. Therefore, we are interested in the kinematic region where

$$q_{i,T} \approx Q_s \gg k_T \gg p_T \tag{14}$$

Having in mind Eq. (13) and Eq. (14) we can rewrite Eq. (11) using

$$(q_1 - k)^2 + i\epsilon = (k^- - q_1^-)(k^+ - q_1^+) - Q_s^2 - i\epsilon; (q_2 - k)^2 + i\epsilon = (k^+ - q_2^-)(k^- - q_2^-) - Q_s^2 - i\epsilon; (15)$$

One can see that for $q_1^- < k^- < q_2^-$ the poles in k^+ in Eq. (11) are situated in diffrent semiplanes and we can close the contour in complex plane k^+ on the pole from $(q_2 - k)^2 = 0$. It gives

$$k_0^+ = \frac{Q_s^2}{k^- - q_2^-} \to -\frac{Q_s^2}{q_2^-} \tag{16}$$

$$A(Fig. 2-c) = -\frac{g^3\pi}{(2\pi)^3} \frac{N_c}{2} f_{abc} \int \frac{dk_T^2 dk^-}{2 p_T^2 q_2^-} \frac{q_{1,\mu}^+ \Gamma_{\mu,\alpha,\beta} \Gamma_{\beta,\gamma,\nu} \Gamma_{\gamma,\alpha,\rho} q_{2,\rho}^-}{\left(q_1^+ k^- + Q_s^2\right) \left(k^- \frac{Q_s^2}{q_2^-} + k_T^2\right)}$$
(17)

One can see that from the kinematic region given by

$$\frac{k_T^2 q_2^-}{Q_s^2} \gg k^- \gg Q_s^2/q_1^+; \quad Q_s^2 \gg k_T^2 \gg p_T^2$$
 (18)

we have a double log contribution, namely,

$$A(Fig. 2-c) = -\frac{g^3 \pi}{(2\pi)^3} \frac{N_c}{2} f_{abc} \frac{1}{4 p_T^2 (q_1^+ q_2^-)} q_{1,\mu}^+ \Gamma_{\mu,\alpha,\beta} \Gamma_{\beta,\gamma,\nu} \Gamma_{\gamma,\alpha,\rho} q_{2,\rho}^- \ln^2 \left(Q_s^2 / p_T^2\right)$$
(19)

Direct calculation of sum over gluon polarization in Eq. (19) leads to

$$\frac{1}{p_T^2} q_{1,\mu}^+ \Gamma_{\mu,\alpha,\beta} \Gamma_{\beta,\gamma,\nu} \Gamma_{\gamma,\alpha,\rho} q_{2,\rho}^- = 4 (q_1^+ q_2^-) \Gamma_{\nu}$$
 (20)

where

$$\Gamma_{\nu} = 2 \left(\vec{q}_{T,1} - \frac{\vec{p}_{T}}{q_{T,1}^{2}} \right)_{\nu} \tag{21}$$

is famous BFKL vertex [27].

Collecting all factors and using the notation $\Gamma_{\nu}^{abc} = 2g f_{abc} \Gamma_{\nu}$ we obtain for the diagram of Fig. 2-c the following expression

$$A\left(Fig.\ 2-c\right) = -\frac{\bar{\alpha}_s}{4} \Gamma_{\nu}^{abc} \ln^2\left(Q_s^2/p_T^2\right) \tag{22}$$

where $\bar{\alpha}_s = \alpha_s N_c/\pi$. Using the well known technique (see Refs.[24, 25]) we obtain

$$T\left(\frac{p_T^2}{Q_s^2}\right) = \exp\left\{-\frac{\bar{\alpha}_s}{2}\ln^2\left(Q_s^2/p_T^2\right)\right\}$$
 (23)

This result follows directly from the generalization of Low theorem for soft photon [29] for high energy scattering (Gribov's theorem [30]). It says that if p_T of emitted photon smaller than any typical transverse moneta in the process the cross section of emitted photon is equal to

$$\sigma_{\gamma} = \frac{\alpha}{2\pi} \frac{d\omega}{\omega} \frac{d^2 p_T}{p_T^2} \sigma_0 \tag{24}$$

where σ_0 is the cross section for the process without photon. This theorem has been generalized to emission of gluons (see Ref. [31]). In our case the typical momentum scales of the process are $Q_{s,1}$ and $Q_{s,2}$ and, therefore, gluons with $p_T \ll Q_{s,1}$ and $Q_{s,2}$ are emitted independently according to the Poisson distribution. The emission of one gluon will be suppressed by $\exp(-\langle n \rangle)$ where $\langle n \rangle = \frac{\bar{\alpha}_s}{2} \ln^2 \left(Q_s^2/p_T^2\right)$ is the average number of emitted gluons.

In the case of two different saturations scales $Q_{s,1}$ and $Q_{s,2}$ the average multiplicity $\langle n \rangle = \frac{\bar{\alpha}_s}{2} \ln^2 \left(Q_{s,min}^2 / p_T^2 \right)$ where $Q_{s,min} = \min\{Q_{s,1}, Q_{s,2}\}$. For dilute-dense scattering the value of $Q_{s,min}$ vanishes and we have no additional suppression. This feature is related to the fact that the BFKL evolution has two branches one of which leads to decrease of the typical transverse momenta of gluons.

In conclusions, we would like to summarize that we suggest Eq. (10) which violates the k_T factorization for $k_T < Q_{s,1}$ and $Q_{s,2}$ but it is in a perfect agreement with the numerical solution for the inclusive production in Colour Glass Condensate [28](see Fig. 3). We would like to emphasize that our result is based on general grounds in QCD and reflects the fact that emission of soft gluons with transverse momenta $Q_s > p_{i,T} > p_T$ has been taken into account in functions ϕ_G (see Eq. (10)) and it should not be included again in k_T -factorization formula.

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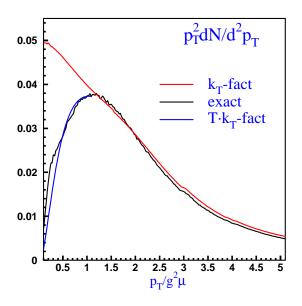


FIG. 3: The single inclusive cross section $p_T^2 dN/d^2 p_T$ versus p_T . The low curve shows the exact solution given in Ref. [28]. The upper curve presents the result for the inclusive cross sections from k_T -factorization. Both these curves are taken from Ref. [28] and we are very thankful to Tuomas Lappi who shares with us the data for these curves. The blue curve (the shortest one) shows the result for Eq. (10) assuming that $\bar{\alpha}_s = 0.1$ and $Q_s = 1.5g^2 \mu$.

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